

**Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)**  
**Meeting**

**Date:** January 22, 2015  
**Location:** 111 N Sanders Rm 207  
**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

**Attendees:** Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Misti Hofland (VR-Great Falls), Diane Reidelbach (Job Connection), Marty Blair (Rural Institute - UM), Marla Swanby (OPI), Tim Plaska (DDP), Karen Cech (recorder).

**Phone Attendees:** Diana Tavary (PLUK), Mark Mahnke (VRBS - Billings), Lori Lundberg, (DDP CM Supervisor Reg 5), Lori Idland (DRM-Parent), Ellen Condon (Rural Institute), Jedith Bennett (ESGW), Laurel Gebo (DDP Reg 2 Man.)

The meeting for the SELN workgroup was shortened because of the Legislature - DSD Public Testimony at the Capital today from 8 - noon.

- **Overview of Regional Transitions Groups - Mark Mahnke, Disability Employment and Transitions Program Manager (Billings)-**

Mark Mahnke was invited to explain his role with the transition groups in the state with the Disability Employment and Transition Program. Mark oversees transition of all programs across the state. Funding of 15% from WIOA helps with these groups. Mark helps June Hermanson from MYTransitions to facilitate quarterly meeting in five regions: Miles City/Glendive, Helena/Butte/Bozeman, Great Falls/Havre, Missoula/Kalispell, and Billings/Red Lodge.

Participants include:

- Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) - this group is through Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and provides assistance for parents, general education staff, administrators and other service providers to coordinate services for individuals transitioning out of high school.
- Disability Employment & Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Offices. Misti Hofland in the Great Falls office is very active in this regional group. Their quarterly meeting generates projects, (1) turning 18 brochure, (2) packet of Mental Health resources and brochure, (3) community education packet, (4) cross training, and (4) focus on Social Security re-determination education to help inform individual that turn 18 what they need to know.
- Independent Living Centers - LIFTT (Billings, Glendive, Hardin, Ashland), MILP (Helena, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon), NCILS (Black Eagle, Glasgow, Poplar), and Summit (Missoula, Hamilton, Kalispell, Ronan). Montana Independent Living Project in Butte has put on a Transition Fair for the Butte high school students and will put set up a Transition Fair in Helena, also. Getting information out about fairs to families seems to be a barrier. PLUK tries to expose families to these fairs.

- OPI/Educators - school transition coordinators (not in all schools), special education coordinators (in all schools), teachers, psychologists.
- Parents and Students.
- Other - Opportunity Inc Youth, Job Connection, Foster Care Program, CMHB Representatives, Job Service.

Meetings are held by WebEx, Video Conference, or Telephone Conference.

Region 2 in Great Falls facilitates there meeting to have a (1) Action, (2) Move toward a goal (projects), (3) to bring in a resource to explain what they do and show what service they provide (networking). Individuals in the group suggest many ideas, are creative in funding options, and have a method to pass information or packets on to schools. Mark and June are hoping to facilitate the other regions to be as active as region 2.

Vocational Rehabilitation funding has not expanded but through WIOA it is mandated that Disability Employment and Transitions to utilize 15% of its funding for Pre-Employment Transitions Services (PETS). Only certain services will count for the 15% PETS set aside. These include:

1. Job exploration counseling
2. Work-based learning experiences
3. Counseling on transitions and post-secondary education
4. Workplace readiness training on social skills and independent living
5. Instruction on self-advocacy

Youth services include individuals that are 14 years of age to 16 years of age. PETS include individuals 15 years of age through 18 years of age. Individual must have a 504 or an IEP. Mark has created a draft letter to send to schools.

- **Initial Discussions on Gathering Employment Data - Kelly McNurlin -**

The SELN workgroup will need to start collecting the next round of Employment Data. This topic will be on the next SELN meeting agenda in February. It will have to be determined what additional data or changes may need to be collected. Small groups may be formed to help with this project.

Kelly will compile data received from the providers and enter the data in an excel worksheet. Other alternatives for compiling data will need to be discussed for future data collection.

- **Additional Business**

The National SELN membership renews every fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup>). When Montana first joined SELN, Rie Kennedy-Lizotte and John Butterworth from the national SELN Project Team, provided assistance in identifying focus areas for the group to work on. Do we want to have these representative come back to facilitate another session?

- **SSI - SSDI -**

Kelly McNurlin participated on a web-ex presentation on SSI and SSDI. This web-ex may be beneficial to staff that work with individuals that receive these two benefits. If this is of interest to the SELN group it can be attached to the next meeting's agenda. If Providers in the workgroup are interested in the web-ex for staff, Kelly would be happy to facilitate a specific web-ex for that provider.

The next SELN meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2015 from 10 - 3:00 pm at 111 N Sanders in Conference Room 207.

**Upcoming SELN meetings:**

Conference Room 207 has been reserved for the following SELN meeting dates:

**March 26      April 23      May 28      June 25      July 23**

\*\*\*Please put the dates in your calendars.